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POLITICAL PRINTS USED ON OLD ENGLISH CHINA

A curious cartoon appeared in England during the Revolutionary period entitled "A Picturesque View of the State of Great Britain," symbolical of the condition of British affairs in the American Colonies. Beneath the picture occurs the following:

EXPLANATION

- I. The Commerce of Great Britain represented in the Figure of a Milch Cow.
- II. The American Congress sawing off her Horns which are her natural strength and defence, the one being already gone, the other just agoing.
- III. The jolly, plump Dutchman milking the poor tame Cow with great glee.
- IV and V. The French and Spaniard, each catching at their respective shares of the produce and running away with bowls brimming full, laughing to one another at their success.
- VI. A distant view of Clinton* and Arnold in New York, concerting measures for the fruitless scheme of enslaving America—Arnold, sensible of his guilt, drops his head and weeps.
- VII. The British Lion lying on the ground fast asleep, so that a pug-dog tramples upon him, as on a lifeless log; he seems to see nothing, hear nothing, and feel nothing.
- VIII. A Free Englishman, in mourning, stands by him, wringing his hands, casting up his eyes in despondency and despair, but unable to rouse the Lion to correct all these invaders of his Royal Prerogative and his subjects' property.

The accompanying illustration is taken from an old American copy of the English print, now on exhibition in the Museum. In place of New York, Philadelphia has been substituted. This design was soon afterwards used extensively by the Liverpool potters on plates and pitchers, being printed in black, and numbers of such pieces have come to light, both in England and America. The device was modified to suit the political conditions of the Colonies, and was adopted later by the Federalists, during the "Long Embargo" of 1807-1809. The idea was carried out in a jug in the collection of the Museum, where Jefferson is shown in the act of milking the cow, while John Bull holds her horns and Bonaparte pulls at her tail.

*Sir Henry Clinton.



LIVERPOOL JUG
With Cartoon, issued during the
"Long Embargo"





PRINTED CARTOON OF 1778
Also used on old English Plates and Pictures